

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Please cancel Claims 1-4 and amend Claims 5, 7, and 10 as follows:

1.-4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) ~~The A~~ recording/reproducing apparatus ~~according to Claim 1;~~
for a domain-wall-displacement magneto-optical recording medium for recording or reproducing
an information by irradiating a light beam to a data region subsequent to a preformat region,
comprising:

a recording circuit that starts recording of an information in the data region at a
predetermined timing with a detection signal obtained in the preformat region being used as a
reference; and

a reproducing circuit that starts reproducing of the information recorded in the
data region at a timing earlier than the predetermined timing with the detection signal being used
as a reference.

wherein a sector mark (SM), a fixed pattern (VFO section) for extracting a clock when detecting an address, an address mark (AM), and an address pit are formed in the preformat region; a fixed pattern (VFO section) for extracting a clock when reproducing the information and a SYNC mark for attaining byte synchronization are formed in the data region; and the timing is measured by a clock with a fixed frequency or a clock generated on the basis of a VFO pattern of the data region with a detection signal obtained in the preformat region being used as a reference.

6. (Original) The recording/reproducing apparatus according to Claim 5, wherein the detection signal is a detection signal of an address mark.

7. (Currently Amended) The recording/reproducing apparatus according to Claim 5, wherein a pair of wobble pits for tracking, and a clock pit, ~~and an address pit~~ are formed in the preformat region; ~~a fixed pattern (VFO section) for extracting a clock when reproducing the information and a SYNC mark for attaining byte synchronization are formed in the data region;~~ and wherein the recording timing is measured by a clock generated by the clock pit with a detection signal obtained in the preformat region being used as a reference; and the reproducing timing is measured by a clock generated on the basis of a detection signal obtained in the preformat region or a clock generated on the basis of a VFO pattern of the data region, with the detection signal obtained in the preformat region being used as a reference.

8. (Original) The recording/reproducing apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein the detection signal is a detection signal of the clock pit.

9. (Original) The recording/reproducing apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein the medium has a substrate, the data region is provided on a groove portion formed on the substrate, the preformat section is provided on a flat portion of the substrate, and the detection signal is a signal obtained at a boundary portion between the groove portion and the flat portion.

10. (Currently Amended) The recording/reproducing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the difference between the recording and the reproducing timings corresponds to a time obtained by dividing a sum of a distance between a position at which a domain wall of a recording mark is formed at the time of recording and a center of a light beam and a distance between a position at which displacement of the domain wall starts at the time of reproducing and the center of the light beam, by a linear velocity of the medium.

11. (Original) The recording/reproducing apparatus according to Claim 5, wherein the reproducing circuit includes a SYNC-mark detection circuit for detecting the SYNC mark and outputting a SYNC matching signal and a detection-window-signal generation circuit for extracting the SYNC matching signal, and the reproducing circuit, when detecting the SYNC matching signal in the detection window signal, starts demodulation of a subsequent information synchronously with the detection timing.

12. (Original) The recording/reproducing apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein the reproducing circuit includes a SYNC-mark detection circuit for detecting the SYNC mark and outputting a SYNC matching signal and a detection-window-signal generation circuit for extracting the SYNC matching signal, and the reproducing circuit, when detecting the SYNC matching signal in the detection-window-signal, starts demodulation of a subsequent information synchronously with the detection timing.

13. (Original) The recording/reproducing apparatus according to Claim 11, wherein the detection-window generation circuit generates the detection window signal using as a center a timing earlier than a recording timing at a rearmost end of the SYNC mark.

14. (Original) The recording/reproducing apparatus according to Claim 12, wherein the detection-window generation circuit generates the detection window signal using as a center a timing earlier than a recording timing at a rearmost end of the SYNC mark.